

**2005 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING  
INTERNATIONAL LONGEVITY CENTER-USA  
60 EAST 86 STREET  
NEW YORK, NY**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Past:**

The 20<sup>th</sup> century investment in research to improve health along with public health activities resulted in more effective prevention and treatments for disease and disability. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century we gained 30 additional years of life expectancy.

**The Present:**

Yet the U.S. currently spends only six cents of each health dollar on research to promote health and prevent disease and disability.

**The Future:**

The 21<sup>st</sup> century holds the promise of further gains in health, productivity and quality of life. Generous funding will help fulfill the promise.

**Recommendations:**

Expand biomedical, behavioral and social research, and especially focus on the biology of aging. Expand research on vaccines, pharmaceuticals and pharmaco-genomics (or personalized medicine)

**Background:**

It has long been known that wealth makes possible the provision of such benefits as improved access to health care. We are now beginning to understand the reverse – that health generates wealth. Further, successful medical research offers both the ultimate service to humanity and the ultimate cost containment.

**Implementation Strategies:**

- 1) 3% of the national health expenditure annually should go to the National Institutes of Health and 1% to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.  
  
1% of the Medicare budget should go to the National Institute on Aging.
- 2) Expand public-private collaborations in support of health research.